

CLAIMS

1. A method of storing query information at a caching device in a system which uses a Content Directory Service (CDS) to store media content information, comprising:
 - 5 querying the CDS of a serving device for media content information;
 - receiving the results of the query; and,
 - storing the results for later retrieval.
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of sending a querying device an identifier of the stored results for use in later retrieval.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the step of querying the CDS of a serving device uses a query received from a querying device.
4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the step of querying the CDS of a serving device uses a query formulated by the caching device.
- 20 5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the formulated query uses knowledge of the user interface of the querying device.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the formulated query uses knowledge of user selections at the user interface of the querying device.
- 25 7. A method according to claim 6 wherein the formulated query relates to a frequently selected option at the user interface.
8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims further comprising the steps of receiving notification from the serving device of an update to the CDS and updating the results stored at the caching device.

9. A method according to claim 8 wherein, upon receiving notification of an update to the CDS, the caching device is arranged to determine whether the stored results require updating.
- 5 10. A method according to claim 8 or 9 wherein, in the event that the stored information is updated, the caching device notifies the querying device that an update has occurred.
- 10 11. A method according to claim 10 wherein, in the event that the stored information is updated, the caching device sends the querying device the information that has changed.
- 15 12. A method of operating a querying device in a system which uses a Content Directory Service (CDS) to store media content information, comprising:
 - determining a candidate query that should be cached; and,
 - instructing a caching device to perform the candidate query and to store the results of the query.
- 20 13. A method according to claim 12 further comprising receiving an identifier of the stored results from the caching device for use in later retrieval of the stored results.
- 25 14. A method according to claim 12 or 13 wherein the querying device has a user interface and the step of determining a candidate query uses historical data of user selections at the user interface.
15. A method according to claim 14 wherein the candidate query is a frequently selected option at the user interface.

16. A method according to any one of claims 13 to 15 wherein the candidate query is at least one option currently available to a user of the user interface, but not yet selected by the user.

5 17. Software for causing a processor to perform the method according to any one of the preceding claims.

18. Control apparatus for a caching device for causing the caching device to perform the method according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

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19. A caching device incorporating the control apparatus according to claim 18.

15 20. Control apparatus for a querying device for causing the querying device to perform the method according to any one of claims 12 to 16.

21. A querying device incorporating the control apparatus according to claim 20.

20 22. A method, software, control apparatus, caching device or querying device according to any one of the preceding claims for use in a system which conforms to Universal Plug and Play (UPnP).